



House Party – Pt. 1

Pastor Ron Carpenter, Jr. | Discussion Guide

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Pastor Ron Carpenter, Jr. opens the “House Party” series by unpacking what it means to be part of the Kingdom of God and the House of God—not just to be forgiven, but to be fully restored to a royal family with rights and privileges. Jesus didn’t come only to fix our behavior; He came to restore the kingdom that Adam forfeited. Sin may make us feel like we’ve lost our standing, but it does not change our status as children of God. In this sermon, we’re challenged to move from a beggar mentality to a confident, kingdom-minded identity. Pastor Ron also calls the local church back to being a true House of God—a gate between heaven and earth—rather than a consumer-driven entertainment center.

KEY SCRIPTURES

1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 4:16; Philippians 4:6; Philippians 3:20; Genesis 28:16-17

GROUP DISCUSSION:

I. RESTORING THE KINGDOM: WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

The Bible isn’t merely a moral rulebook; it’s the story of a King, a Kingdom, and a Royal Family. Jesus came to forgive sin and restore the kingdom Adam forfeited. Because Jesus met God’s righteous standard for us, we are “good enough” in Him—hidden in Christ, seen by God through His Son. We are a royal priesthood. (1 Peter 2:9)

Discussion Questions

1. How does reading the Bible as a rulebook rather than a “kingdom document” limit our interpretation of the bible’s true intent?
2. What changes when you see Scripture as the story of a Kingdom and a Royal Family rather than a list of rules?

Apply It: Take one area where you’ve been striving to “be good enough” on your own, and speak this truth over it: “I am already accepted in Christ.”

II. FROM STRANGERS TO SONS: YOUR STATUS NEVER CHANGED

In Christ, we are no longer strangers (welcomed only by hospitality) or aliens (present, but with no rights)—we are sons and daughters with full access to the Father. The prodigal son was still a son in the house, a son in the pignen, and a son when he returned; sin never changed his status. Many believers, like the older brother, serve faithfully but live like servants instead of enjoying the full rights already given to them. We are invited to come boldly to God in prayer, not to beg for what has already been promised.

Scripture: Hebrews 4:16: & Philippians 4:6

Discussion Questions

1. Where do you find yourself living like a servant, stranger, or beggar instead of a son or daughter with full rights?

2. Sin didn't change the prodigal's status—only his experience of it. How does that truth challenge how you view your own mistakes and failures?

Apply It: This week, replace one “begging” prayer with a bold, confident prayer that thanks God for what He has already promised, based on Hebrews 4:16.

III. CITIZENS OF HEAVEN, AMBASSADORS ON EARTH

Our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20); we are just visiting earth. As citizens, we have rights and access to the Kingdom's resources—its economy, protection, healing, and justice system, with Jesus as our advocate. As ambassadors, we represent the opinion of our government, not our own personal opinions. Wherever we take territory, the kingdom expands and the enemy loses jurisdiction.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it look like practically to represent “kingdom values” rather than personal opinion in your everyday conversations?
2. How does knowing your home, family, and daily life stand on “embassy ground” change how you view the battles you're facing?

Apply It: Identify one situation this week where you'll choose to represent God's perspective (His “government's opinion”) instead of your own default reaction.

I. THE HOUSE OF GOD: THE GATE OF HEAVEN

Jacob woke from his dream and declared, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it... this is the house of God, and the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:16-17). The gathering of God's people is meant to be that gate - a pathway between two realities- where sickness moves to healing, fear moves to faith, and the lost are found. Too many churches have been built as houses for man—shaped by consumer culture and spectacle—rather than houses built according to God's blueprint.

Discussion Questions

- I. This week we were asked, “Are our gatherings built according to God's specifications or our own?” How would you honestly answer that about your own life?
- II. What has God shown you that you've “built” that might be preventing His presence and power from operating fully in your life?

Apply It: This week, identify one practical way you can help make your gatherings (church, small group, home) a true “gate of heaven” rather than just a room full of people.

CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

We are not strangers begging at the gate—we are sons and daughters, citizens of heaven, and ambassadors carrying Kingdom authority on earth. Our lives must be the gate, so that others can experience the kingdom when they encounter us. Moreso, as we gather as the House of God, we're invited to become a true gate between heaven and earth, a people who walk boldly, pray confidently, and build our lives according to God's blueprint instead of our own.

Group Challenge

As a group, discuss one area where your gathering (church, family, or small group) could look more like the “gate of heaven” Jacob described. Commit to praying boldly for one another this week—with confidence, not a beggar mentality—and check in on each other's answered prayers.

Personal Challenge (Choose 2 of the following):

- III. Declare Your Status Daily: Each morning this week, remind yourself, “I am a son/daughter, not a stranger. I am a citizen of heaven and an ambassador on earth.”
- IV. Pray Boldly: Identify one place you've been begging God for something He has already promised, and pray it instead with bold thanksgiving (Hebrews 4:16, Philippians 4:6).
- V. Represent the Kingdom: Choose one relationship or conversation this week where you'll represent God's perspective rather than your own opinion.

- VI. Build According to the Blueprint: Ask God to show you one thing in your life that's built "your way" instead of His, and take one step to realign it.

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

— Hebrews 4:16

